

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /078 W

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P R 202009Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1606

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2356

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 7188

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT, GW, EEC

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 19-20: SCHMIDT

REMARKS ON ITALY

UPON HIS ARRIVAL FOR THE JULY 19 SESSION OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR WAS ACCOSTED BY THE ITALIAN PRESS AND ASKED FOR HIS REACTION TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S REPORTED REMARKS THAT THE BIG FOUR HAD AGREED IN PUERTO RICO THAT AID TO ITALY WAS CONDITIONED ON NON-PARTICIPATION OF THE PCI IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. RUMOR MANAGED TO AVOID COMMENTS TO THE PRESS BUT DISCUSSED THE MATTER PRIVATELY WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER DURING THE COURSE OF THAT NIGHT'S SESSION. ACCORDING TO PERM REP SOURCES, THE FULL COUNCIL DID NOT DISCUSS THE SUBJECT. UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND LATER TOLD THE PRESS, ON THE RECORD, THAT THE UK HAD NOT BEEN PARTY TO ANY SUCH AGREEMENT AND HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO HEAR REPORTS THAT ONE HAD BEEN MADE. HE STRESSED THAT UK POLICY HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF ABSOLUTE NON-INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICS. MORRIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU07188
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760279-0345
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760742/aaaabkkgg.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <02 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 19-20: SCHMIDT REMARKS ON ITALY
TAGS: PFOR, IT, GE, RQ, UK, EEC, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH), (CROSLAND, ANTHONY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006